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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

KOJIMA, Takashi Atty. Ref.: 2635-75

Serial No. 09/817,133 Group: 2829

Filed: March 27, 2001 Examiner: M. Harrison

For: GAS STRUCTURE HAVING IMPROVED STRUCTURE
FOR INSTALLATION OF PROTECTIVE COVER

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

February 9, 2004

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

1. **PTO-1449 Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97(b)**
[within 3 months of filing or prior to 1st Office Action on the merits] **N/C**

2.(a) **Statement Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97(c)**
[before Final Office Action or Allowance (requires Rule 97(e)
Statement or Rule 17(p) fee)] **N/C**

2 .(b) **Fee Payment Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97(c)**
[before Final Office Action or Allowance (requires Rule 97(e)
Statement or Rule 17(p) fee)] **\$180.00**

3. **Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97(d)**
[after Final Office Action or Allowance (requires Rule 97(e)
Statement and Rule 17(p) fee), but before final fee payment]
\$180.00

The following are submitted in the above-identified application in compliance with
37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98:

4. A list of documents on Form PTO-1449 together with copies of each identified document and a translation or a concise explanation of each non-English language document (such as a Search Report) is enclosed herewith. Also attached is a copy of a European Search Report filed in the corresponding European patent application. The following references cited in the European Search Report have not been included herein as they have previously been cited in this application (US 5,238,552, JP 10170474, EP 0978721, EP 0933630 and JP 09304332).

This paper is submitted in accordance with:

5. 37 CFR 1.97(b): [within 3 months of filing or prior to 1st Office Action]

6. 37 CFR 1.97(c): [before Final Office Action or Allowance, whichever is earlier]; and

a) The required Statement made in item 8 below; or

b) The \$180.00 fee specified in 37 CFR §1.17(p) for submission of this Information Disclosure Statement is authorized in item 9 below.

7. 37 CFR §1.97(d): [after Final Office Action or Allowance (requires Rule 97(e) Statement and Rule 17(p) fee), but before final fee payment]; and

a) The fee (\$180.00) required by 37 CFR §1.17(p) is submitted herewith; and

b) The required Statement is stated in item 8 below.

8. Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e)

a) The undersigned attorney of record hereby certifies under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement (each item contained in this IDS was the first citation of that item by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application which occurred no more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS); or

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b) No item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing this Statement, after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

9. Please charge all deficiency fees associated with the submission of this Information Disclosure Statement and any other fees applicable to this application to Deposit Account No. 14-1140. An original and one (1) copy of this document are enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

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Atty. Docket No.

Serial N.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

2635-75

09/817,133

Applicant

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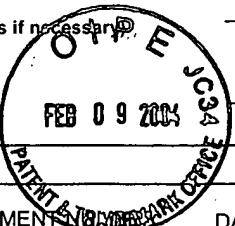
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TC/A.U.

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(Use several sheets if necessary)



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

TRANSLATION

OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent pages, etc.)

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Date Considered

Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.